

February 8, 1973

SPEAKER: Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President and Members of the Legislature. The last time this bill came up, I suggested that the 25% increase might be inflationary and I suggested there might be a better way of doing this, prorating it over the year. I and Senator Stromer and Senator Anderson have checked with the Attorney General and various other authorities and the general feeling among all of us is, I think, that this may not be the best way to go. My feeling at this time is that we should adopt the amendment that I have proposed there. This amendment would have the direct effect of putting the entire burden and responsibility of setting the salaries of county officials upon the duly elected county board of supervisors. Now, since our last discussion on the floor on this bill, I have come up with some more information which I think is important to relate to the body relative to this amendment and the reasons for supporting it. In discussion with Arnold Ruhnke, Senator Anderson, other county board officials throughout the State, particularly in my own counties, in some of Senator Kennedy's counties, the conclusion among all of them was, as I say, including the supporters of this bill, is that the effect of this bill, if passed as it is, would be to increase salaries across the board of county officials, of, of county employees, about 20%. The bill actually calls for 25% minimum increase but all pretty much agree and acknowledge the effect would be to increase all salaries probably an average of 20%. So we're talking about a very significant salary increase. Now the people that would be actually causing this salary increase would be the Legislature of the State of Nebraska. And yet, the people that are affected by it, are county officials in county government. It would seem

(End of Belt #3)